

THE
Christians Calamities:

OR,

The Protestants Complaint,
Collected out of many severall Letters
that were sent from beyond the Seas into
England, and presented to his High-
ness the Lord Protector, of
England, Scotland and
Ireland.

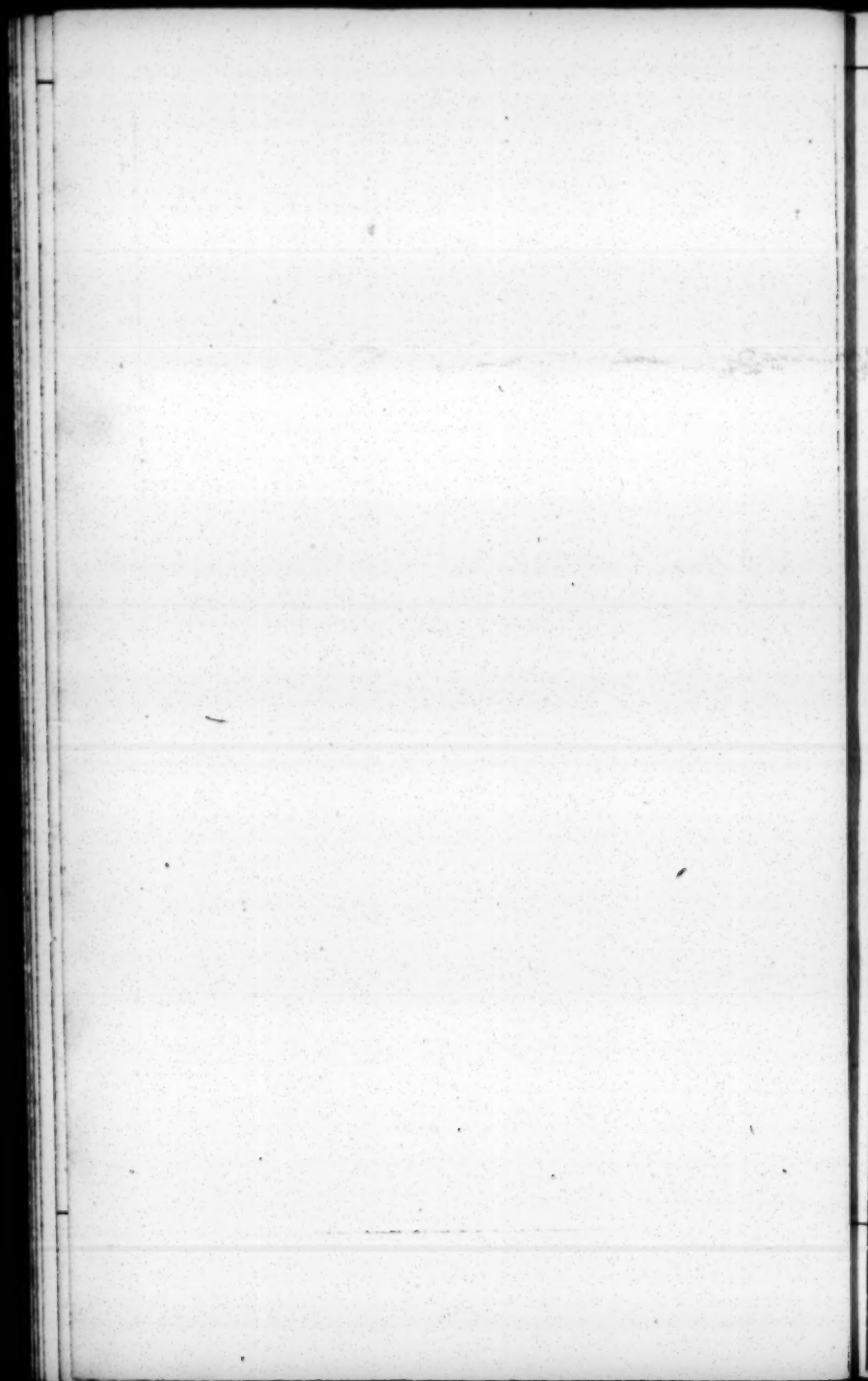
The very truth of the matter is plainly set
down in this little Book, to the end that
who soever either reads or hears it, may
take good notice of what is
here set down.

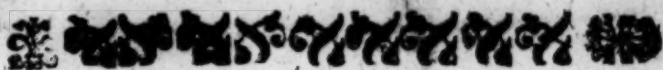
And withall, to pray unto the Lord, that
the like miseries may never be-
fall us here in England.

Faithfully collected, drawn up and written
By Laurence Price. 1655.

From famine, bloodshed, plagues and sudden
death,
Good Lord deliver us whilst we are on
earth.

London, printed for Thomas Vere at the
Angell without Newgate. 1655.





AN INTRODUCTION,
or Epistle to the Reader.

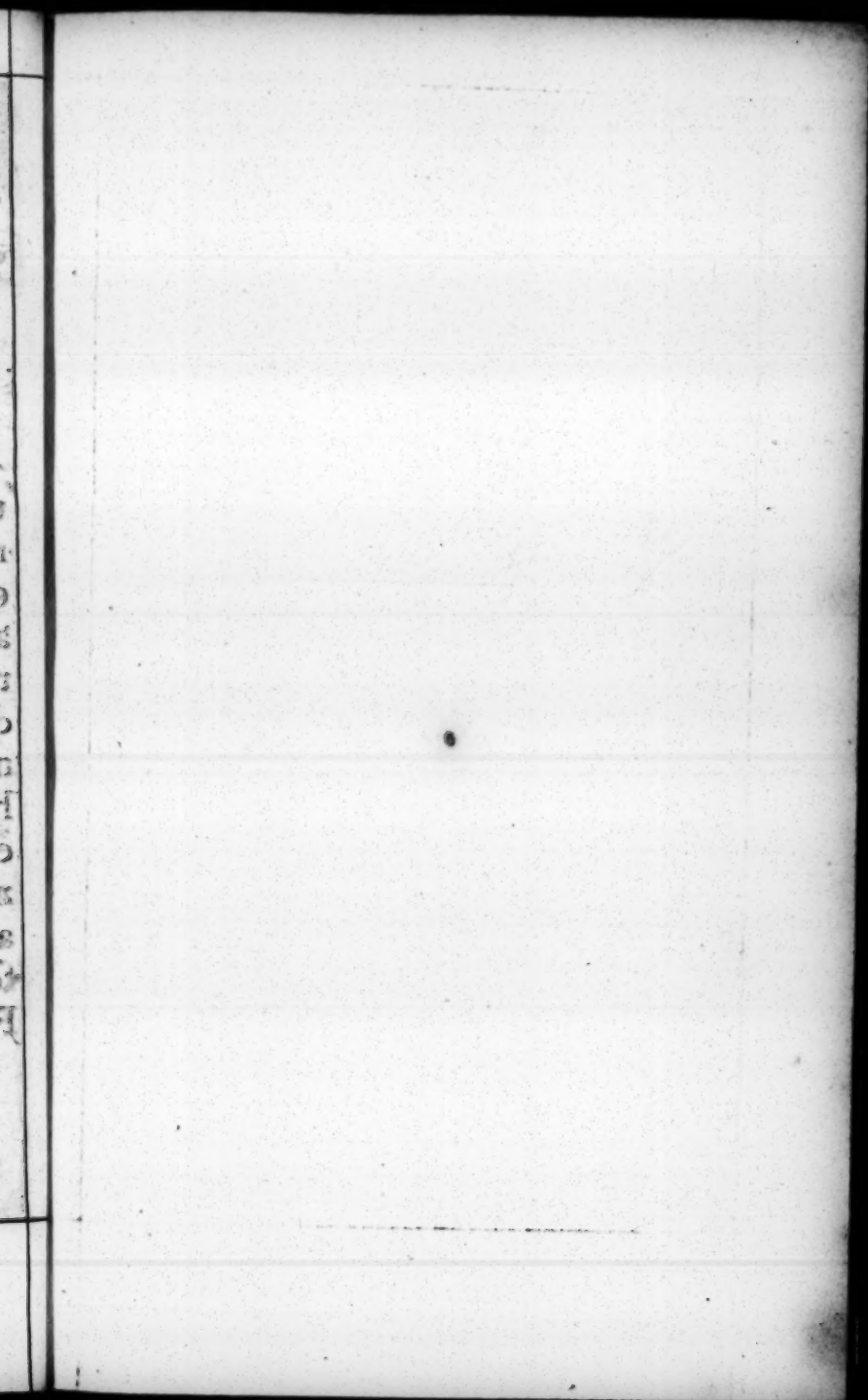
BEloved Friends & Countrymen,
the reason why I drew up the co-
py of this little Book, is, because
the world should know the truth of the
mater, how cruelly & how barbarously
our Christian brethren are dealt with-
all beyond the Seas by their blood-
thirsty enemies. It is a picture not
drawn to the life, but of the death of
many thousands of true and Faithfull
hearted Protestants; and so hoping that
example of them may be a meanes to
make us turn from our wicked wayes,
and seeke the Lord whilst he may be
found in mercy, I remain your loving
Friend and well-wisher. L. P.

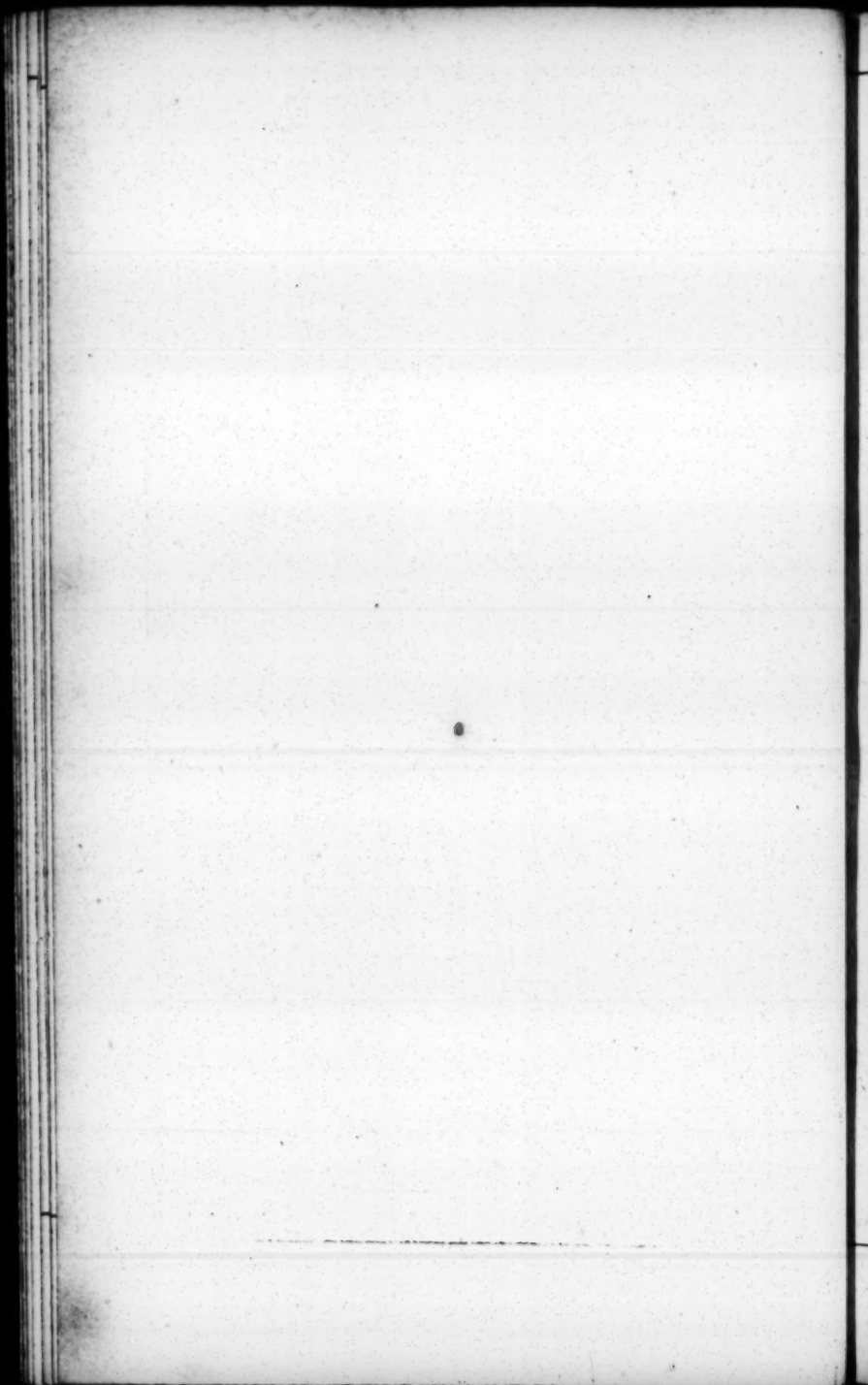
THE HISTORY OF THE

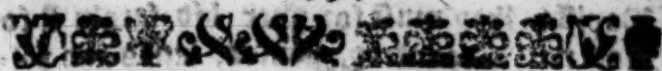
ANTI-RODUC TION

OF THE

Beloved Friends & Countrymen
I am sorry to hear of the co-
py of this little Book is, because
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A brieſe Deſcription of the Bloody
Uſage and cruel Perſecutions done upon
Proteſtants in the vallies of *Piedmont*
and other places, as you ſhall
hear immediatly.



In the famous and fruitful Coun-
treſ, which is called, The Val-
lies of *Piedmont*, and *Lucern*,
under the command of the Duke
of *Savoy*, there lately inhabited
people called *Waldenſes*, famous for their con-
ſtant profeſſion of the Proteſtant Religion
in all ages for about 500 yeares together; to
whom the bloody-thirſty *Papiſts* have always
born a moſt venomous ſpight, and have often
conſulted amongſt themſelves how to get
theſe Proteſtants quite rooted out and ſo to
make themſelves maſters of all that they en-
joyed. In the purſuance whereof about the
later end of *January* laſt, the Duke of *Savoy*
by the perſuaſion of the *Romiſh* Priests and
Reſuits, put forth a Proclamation that in caſe
all of the reſormed Religion, both inhabitants
and ſtrangers, ſhould not in three dayes turn
A 23 *Papiſts*,

107
Papists they must for ever bid farewell to
their native countrey, houses, lands and pos-
sessions, and that it should be death without
mercy for any to disobey the same,

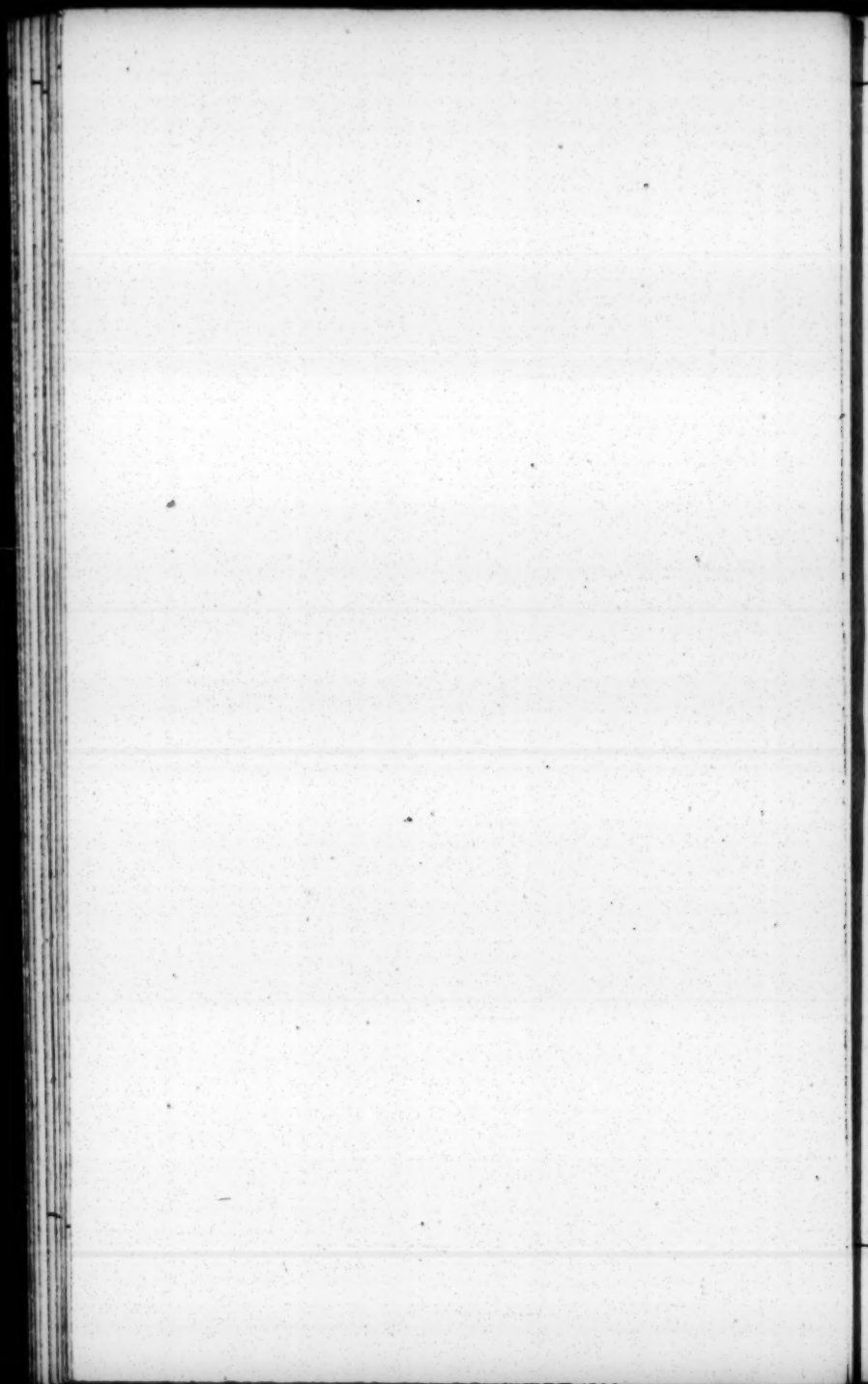
Hereupon no sooner was the time limited,
overpast, but immediately Priests and Monks
sent in upon them a world of cut-throats and
villains, who in the depth of Winter, not
sparing even women with child near delibe-
ry, nor those that had Infants hanging on
their breast, they were all without distinction
both men, women, and children, driven out
to wander through frost and snow in a most
bitter season to seek for shelter in hollow
caves and rocks, and other desolate places.

The like cruelties have never been acted
since the worlds creation: for why? The Pa-
pists having gotten the upper hand of the
Protestants, they stole and took away their
houses and castell from off their ground, they
fired and burned the Ricks and Barres of
Corn, they ravished and deflowered both Wo-
men and Virgins, in such a most horrible and
beastly manner, which may be a shame to be
spoken of: and yet that was not the worst,
for when the distressed Protestants had been
by their Papistcall enemies at first so falsly
and beastly betrayed, and afterwards so ter-
ribly

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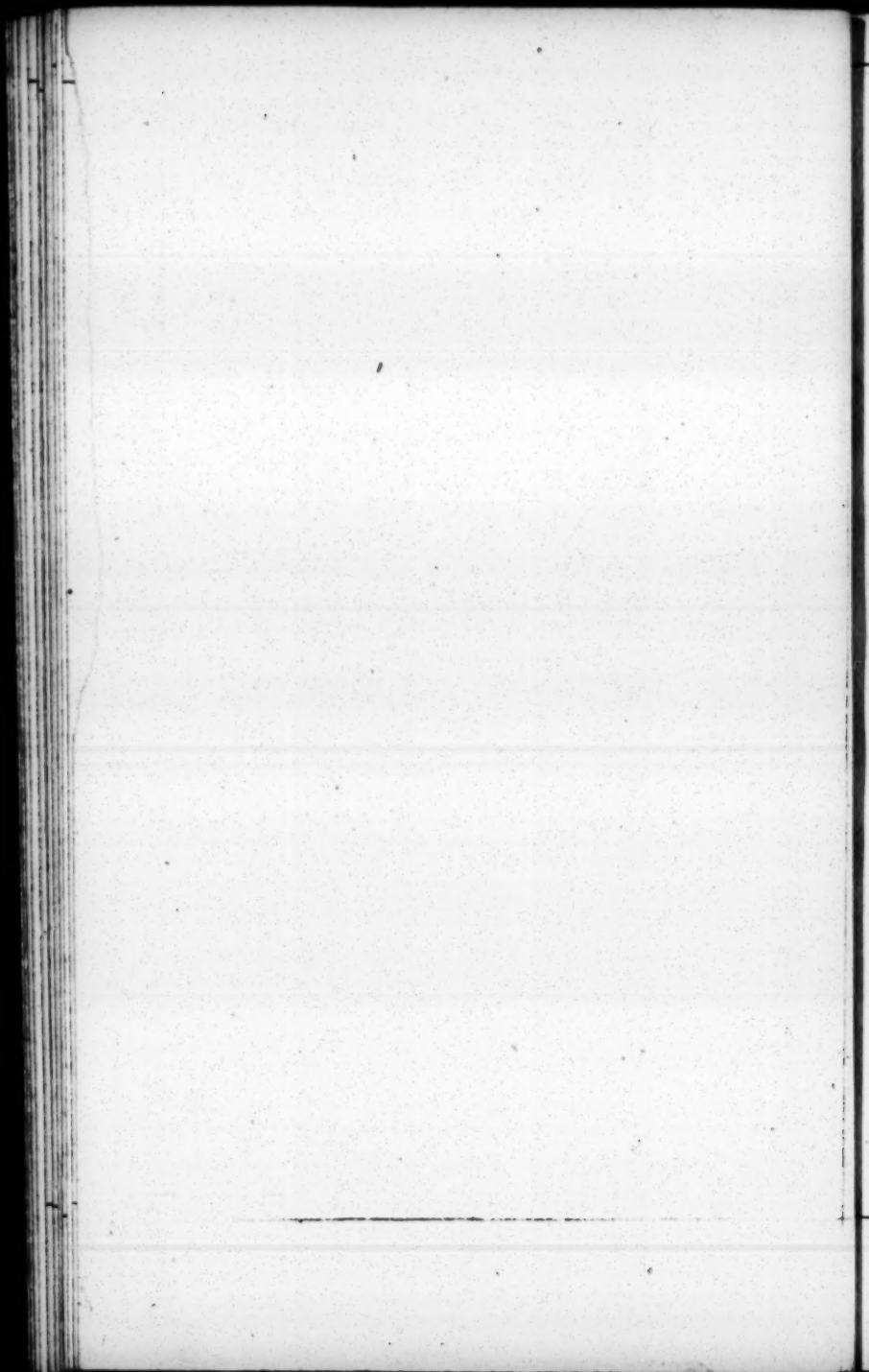
ably assaulted, as many of them that could make any shift at all to escape away, fled into the mountains with their wives and children, but by the way were met withall by a great party of Irish Souldiers, which were under the Dukes command, who fell upon them with such violence, that they murdered all both men, women and children, insomuch that they left not one of them alive that they could take or lay hands on, saying, that they would be revenged on them for the Romanish Catholick blood that was spilt by the Protestants in Ireland.

Yet here followeth more sad and sorrowfull news, which is worse then that which hath been already spoken of, the people which did yet remain in the valleys, that had no time to shift for themselves, ran some of them into Creeks and corners and hid themselves in caves and hollow places, where many of them died miserable deaths for want of food to sustain their hunger; and them that remained in Towns and Cities were so cruelly murdered that the very Channels in the streets were filled with blood: foure hundred men at one time were burned to death in a Church; fifteen hundred of women and small children on that same day slain at a Fort called

led Milbour, the women had their throats cut, and their childrens brains were dashed against the rocks, and afterwards their Carriages burnt to powder. At the Towne of Bricherus all the men put to the sword, and sixteen greatbellied women had their infants ript out of their wombs, in a great Forrest that was very heare unto that place, were two hundred men that fled for their lives, overtaken, and afterwards hanged to the trees alike, some of them with their belts upsteepe, and their heads downward towards the ground. At the Citty of Turin was the Protestants Temple set on fire, and burned to the very ground by Priests and Runicke Priests.

The Whiskers belonging to the same, Mr. Gros and Mr. Aghit, with all the chiefest Gentlemen & officers were carried to prison, & stifled to death in their beds. Four Elders, amongst which Paul de Rossan, a man that was of very great note and estate, with many others more hanged at la Tour. Some had their bowels pulled out of their Bellies, and thrown about the streets for Dogges to gnaw upon. The houses of Angrogue in which were three thousand Protestants got in for shelter, was fired, and never a man came

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came out alive; the Boulders and Round
Pistols, Spears and Jolites, in companies
running up and down from one house to
another, and never left off murdering whilst
the day gave light, Some Children by the
Souldiers torn limb from limb, and thrown
at one anothers heads: and some were toss
upon the points of their pikes, to and fro.
Many that were brought up high and mighty
mountains, were tied neck and heels toge-
ther, and tumbl'd down the steep Rocks.

At a gallant Town call'd Talarca, they
destroyed all the women and children that
they could light upon, and cut off the chil-
drens heads, and boyled them, and ate the
brains for sauce: and all the men that they
could take they strip them naked, and cut &
flatt their bodies with Swords and Fand-
chins, and stopt up their wounds with salt
and Gunpowder. They overtake some in
their running, and flake them fast to the
ground. They hang many up by the feet
till they dyed, and some they broach through
with spits and roasted alive.

And thus were the poor Protestants put
to most cruell and inhumane deaths, both in
the vallies and in the mountains, and in eve-
ry Towne and Citty where the Romish
Priests

Wiccs and Waples Soldiers came.

Some women had their breasts cut off, some men had their members cut off, some were starved to death with cold, and some were forced to eat their own excrement, all which miseries was inflicted upon them, because they would not turn from their Religion, and from the true worship of the living God, to worship and honour Idolatry.

A Religious man at Angroque, named Peter Symon, being a hundred years of age, and his wife almost as much, with many other aged people having gathered themselves in a house together into one place, intending there to spend the remainder of the wretched time that they had to live in Divine Prayer and Supplications to the Lord, were set upon by the bloody Tyrants, and most basely murdered because they would not goe to Masse,

In another house they took M. Thomas Margher almost an hundred years old, and because he refused to goe to Masse, they first cut off his Nose, then one of his Ears, and after the other, and last of all they cut him joynt from joynt till they had cut all his Limbs in peeces, who spoke these words in the midst of his extremitie to the Tyrants that

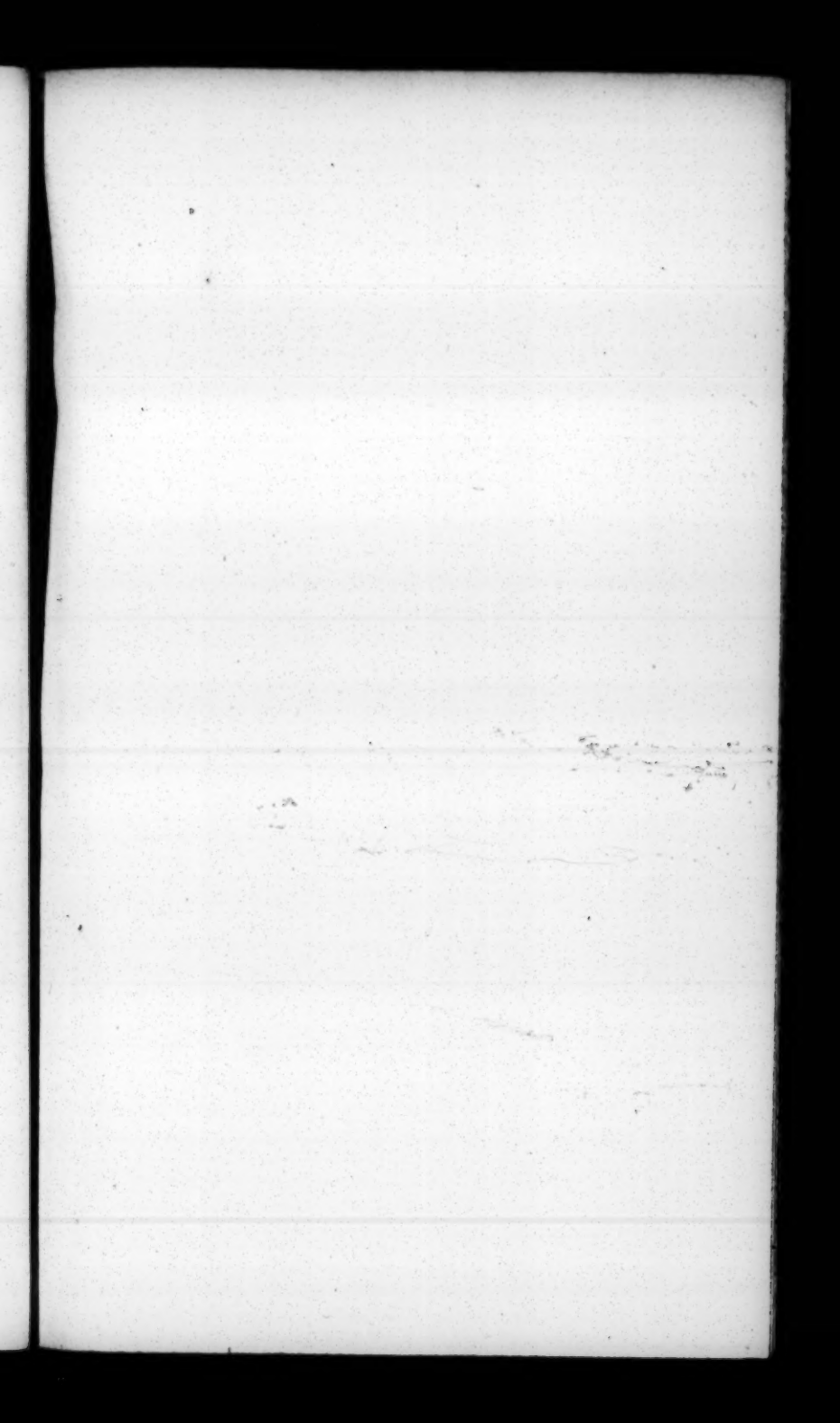
that did it. Torment my body how and which way you will or can, but I am sure that you have no power to hurt my soule, and therefore I feare you not, I will never turn from my Christian Faith to worship Idols, for had I ten thousand lives I could be wel content to loose them all for the Truth and for the Gospel of Christ: these were the latest of his dying words, a great number more such horrible bloody Murders have bin committed upon the Protestants, which if every severall particular were set down, a bigger Booke were not able to hold them: But here is a sad present in what is already set down, I would to God that it had bin better, for it is too well approved on, that above thirtie thousand Christians that were Protestants perished and were brought to untimely ends in two days and nights, which was done April the fifth and seventh this present Yeare, 1655.

Here

Here followeth a brief Description of the
 Situation of the Countrey, where these
 Cruell, Bloody, and unhuman Massacries
 was committed and done.

The People of the Nation are called the
 Waldences, most of them are of a gallant
 resolute, which had rather dye then to change
 and to turn from what their Ancestors were,
 and it is well to be known that the faithfull
 Waldences have stood up for the true Prote-
 stant Religion at least five hundred yeares:
 notwithstanding they have had many trou-
 blesome Oppressions and Persecutions rayled
 against them by the blood-thirstie Popes,
 but never none like to this before: the coun-
 tries wherein the Waldences did inhabit is
 called the valeys of Piedmont, and the va-
 leys of Lucerne, adjoining close with Italy
 and France on the other side, Savoy is also
 next unto it; the Countrey in the valeys is
 very fruitfull bearing and bringing forth Corn,
 Oyle and Wine in a plentiful manner, and
 by the report of many knowing men which
 have bin Travellers and past through that
 Countrey, there is never a place in all Urope
 so

**THE
EAST
INDIA
COMPANY**

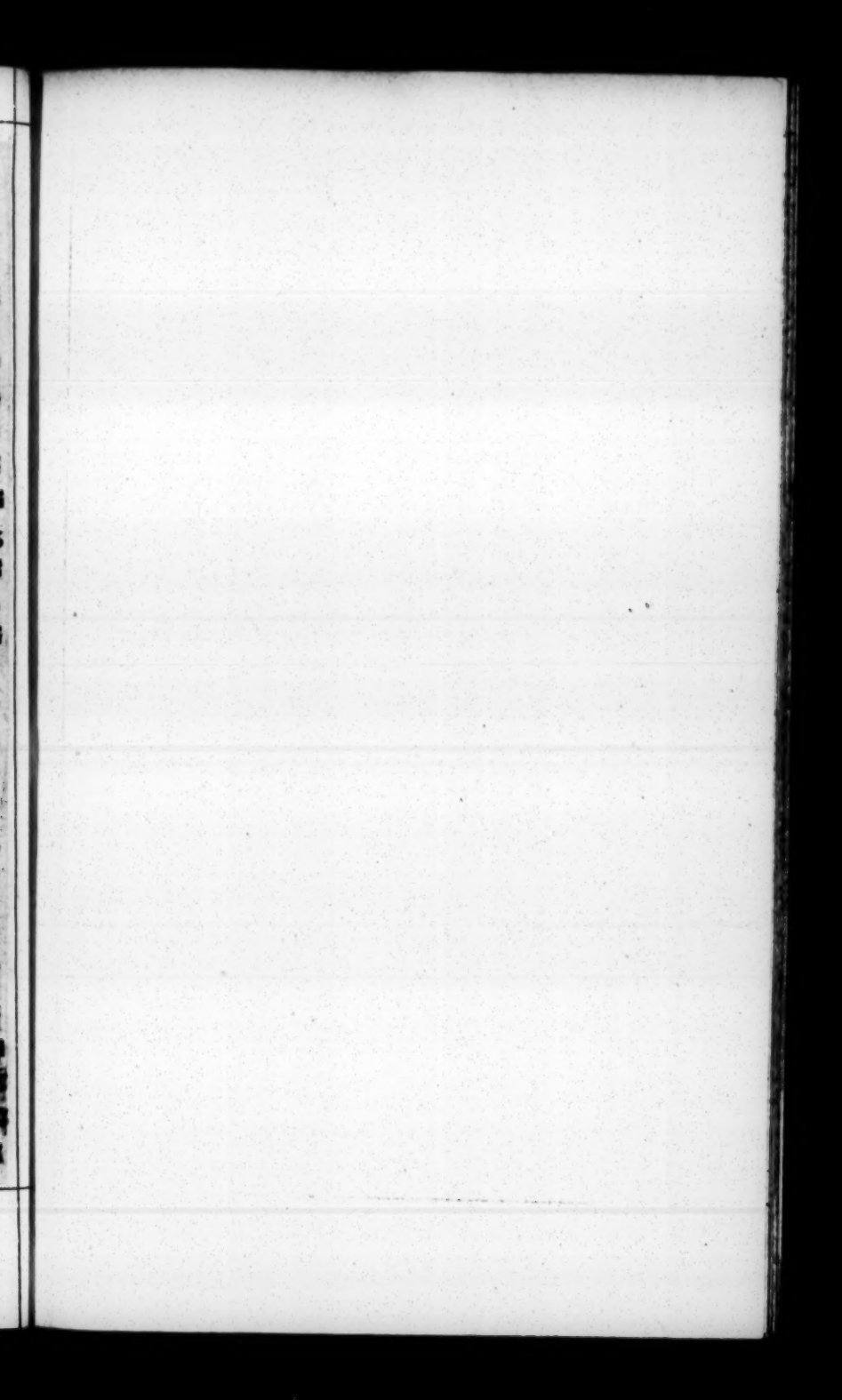


magnifie themselves against us: and now
will I put you in mind of some sad miseries
which have fallen and happened to many
people in England Since these last domestick
wars began, which is known by too full expe-
rience to be too true; all which calamities,
we as it were pulled down upon our shoul-
ders, for want of serving of God aright.

Here followeth a true Relation of many
cruell acts which have been done since
these unhappy and unnatural wars began
in England, which is a thing very neces-
sary to be lookt upon, and to kept in me-
mory.

The Prophet Hosea, Chap. 4. crying out
against the wickednesse of the people of
those times, saith, The Lord hath a contro-
versie with the inhabitants of the land, be-
cause there is no truth, nor mercy, nor know-
ledge of God in the land. by swearing and
lying, and killing and stealing, and who-
ring, they break out, and blood hath touched
blood. The very same occasion hath been in
England; For all manner of sinnes have
so much abounded here, that the like
was never before: here is envy, spite and
hate amongst neighbours, here is covetous-
nesse, pride and ambition amongst rich men;
here

so like unto England as that Countrey is;
 but the Lord in mercy grant that England
 may never be so cruelly abused, as the people
 of that Countrey have bin: and now let us
 turn back and reflect upon our selves; are not
 we almost in the same condition as they
 were in: suppose a foreign Nation should
 come as they have threatened to do and invade
 our Countrey and over-comens, who knows
 but their crueltie might be as much to us as
 the Hapsts crueltie was to the Waldenses;
 I am certainly perswaded that our sinnes are
 as great and numberlesse as theirs, and for
 ought we know our punishment may be as
 great as theirs unless we speedily repent:
 wherefore I desire every man and every wo-
 man, old and young, rich and poore, to betake
 themselves to true repentance by unfeigned
 prayers and amendment of life, & to prostrate
 our selves both Soules and Bodies before
 the wrath of our mercifull God committed
 upon us, for if our Enemies should resist and
 make warre against us, it is not the arm of
 flesh that could defend us, except the Lord al-
 ready be on our side, althoug we were
 ten for one against them, but if the Lord God
 be on our side we need not feare our proud
 Enemies though a thousand to one should
 magnify



here is lying, swearing & dissembling among
 Tradesmen, here is false doctrine & blasphem-
 y taught among seditious men, and there
 is a generall distemper amongst all men;
 insomuch that there are some men contented
 with their present estate; and this was the
 cause of our homebred wars at first, and that
 blood hath tumbled blood, we all know to be
 true: for since those wars began, there is no
 place in England but hath deeply tasted of
 this bloody cup of civill wars, whereby some
 have lost their goods, some their lives, and
 many thousands both goods and lives; so that
 the countrey people in many places know
 not whither to flye to save themselves from
 the terrible stroke of death. At night when
 men should have gone to their rest, the
 Drums beat up their martiall Alarms; and
 by day when men should go to their labours,
 their horses & cattel were taken up for ser-
 vice, and the two great Armies were in the
 helms of our nation, continually preparing
 themselves for slaughter: and this was the
 cause of our sorrows & troubles; had it not
 bin for this, there had not been so many newes
 of taking of towns, firing of houses, plunder-
 ing of Cities, ravishing of women, and be-
 slowring of maides: had it not been for the
 wars

warre, there had not been so many Barons,
Knights, Colonels & Captains impudencies,
nor so many Gentlemen & others lost their
lives: these unnatural civil wars have cost
so many a wofull mother to bewaile the
death of her slain son: and many a sister to
mingle tears with her brothers blood: many
fatherlesse children to perishe for want of
nourishment, & many a mourning full widow
sit weeping a lone for want of the company
of her late deceased husband.

And thus have you heard of the miseries
that we have brought upon our selves long
of our sins and taking up quarres to fight one
with another here in our own Countrey.

And now to conclude, if our Friends and
Neighbours were so violent and cruell a-
mongst us, who knowes but if an Army of
Strangers should come and invade our Land,
but that they should be faire woyle, which I
hope shall never be: Therefore I desire of
all men that they may love one another, and
then will the Lord send Peace and Peace a-
mongst all: and for the distressed Widewomen
that are yet alive let every man and woman
send up their Prayers to Almighty God for
their deliverance, and happy are they if we
can take warning by their harmes.

FINIS.

